



I-70 East

Community Outreach and Agency Involvement Technical Report Addendum

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I-70 East Final Environmental Impact Statement

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Appendix A. Map of Comments Received on the Supplemental Draft EIS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACC	Agency Coordination Committee
Aurora	City of Aurora
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
Commerce City	City of Commerce City
Denver	City and County of Denver
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EOC	Executive Oversight Committee
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
HPTE	Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise

1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This addendum supports the Community Outreach and Agency Involvement Technical Report prepared in August 2014 for the I-70 East Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It presents the additional outreach methods conducted since the publishing of the Supplemental Draft EIS and those proposed for future agency and community coordination. Prior outreach has been an extensive process that solicited input from agencies and the community and public to analyze and eliminate alternatives, leading to selection of the Partial Cover Lowered Alternative with Managed Lanes Option as the Preferred Alternative.

The information contained in the previous technical report is still pertinent. This addendum specifically includes new outreach methods performed since the Supplemental Draft EIS was published.

2 SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT EIS COMMENTS

Formal open houses/public hearings were held in September 2014 to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS published in August 2014. The date, location of each meeting, and the number of attendees are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Public hearings for Supplemental Draft EIS

Date	Location	Number of Attendees
September 23, 2014	Sable Elementary School, Aurora	28
September 24, 2014	Kearney Middle School, Commerce City	47
September 25, 2015	Bruce Randolph Middle School, Denver	187
Total		262

The 45-day public review period was scheduled to end on October 14, 2014. A request for extension was granted that extended the review period to October 31, 2014. More than 900 comment submittals—many containing multiple comments—were received from the public, stakeholders, and affected agencies during the public comment period. Comments received were posted on the project website, www.i-70east.com, shortly after the close of the comment period.

2.1 Responses to Comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS

All of the comments received during the review period for the Supplemental Draft EIS were analyzed and matched with formal responses. The comments covered a variety of concerns with the major topics including health, air quality, the reroute alternative, highway width and number of lanes, and right of way. All of the comments received and the individual responses to each comment are provided in Attachment Q, *Supplemental Draft EIS Comments and Responses*.

2.2 Location of Comments

To ensure transparency in the decision-making process, a map of the comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS is included in Appendix A, and was posted shortly after the close of the comment period on the project website, www.i-70east.com. The majority of comments came from around the metro Denver area, with 125 comments from the neighborhoods most directly impacted by the project.

2.3 Concerns about Comments Received

A majority of the comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS were received electronically, through the project website or emails. On October 29, 2014, 35 comments were received through the project website that all originated from the same IP address. (Every machine on a network has a unique identifier; the unique identifier for a computer is called its IP address.) Each of the comments from the same IP address had different names and return email addresses. As was protocol, a member of the project team responded to each comment received electronically, but a few of the commenters from this IP address responded to the return email that they did not submit a comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS. This IP address could have been shared across computers and various people at one location, and could have been accessed during a meeting, or one individual may have submitted all of these particular comments. Even with the concerns about these particular comments, they are included with responses in Attachment Q, *Supplemental Draft EIS Comments and Responses*.

3 AGENCY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT DURING THE FINAL EIS

During the development of the Final EIS, the agency involvement and community outreach efforts continued to identify the community's needs and refine the identified Preferred Alternative to better address these needs. The agency involvement and community outreach opportunities provided are described in the following subsections.

3.1 Agency coordination

The project team has continued to coordinate with several agencies through committees, such as the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) and the Agency Coordination Committee (ACC). These committees provide effective face-to-face communication between FHWA, CDOT, and the City and County of Denver (Denver). Continued regular coordination is maintained with local government agencies—including Denver, the City of Aurora (Aurora), the City of Commerce City (Commerce City), and Denver Public Schools—to ensure project plans do not contradict local plans. Denver and Denver Public Schools are contacted on a regular basis to remain updated on the project progress, to collect their input on various issues in the study area, and to assist in developing mitigation measures.

3.2 Community outreach

The outreach process during the preparation of the Final EIS specifically focused on giving the public the opportunity to provide input on the Partial Cover Lowered Alternative, along with other issues. A number of the meetings held were topic-specific, focusing on decision making for associated project facilities such as the cover near Swansea Elementary School. This section describes the community outreach process during the preparation of the Final EIS.

3.2.1 Corridor-wide meetings

The project team has held corridor-wide meetings periodically to provide opportunities for the community to interact with the project team to discuss project issues and recommendations. The meetings have been conducted in the past at major project milestones to present changes to alternatives, new alternatives, and project progress. The goal of these meetings has been to solicit input from the public on alternatives being presented for support or potential issues.

Corridor-wide meetings held by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) included childcare, food, and Spanish translation services. They were held at a locally accessible location to encourage everyone to participate. Special needs assistance, such as transportation to and from the meeting and sign language, would be available upon request. Summaries of past corridor-wide meetings are available on the project website at www.i-70east.com.

One round of corridor-wide meetings were held during the preparation of the Final EIS (see Table 2). More could be held in the future on an “as needed” basis.

Table 2. Corridor-wide meetings

Date/Location	Topic	Number of Attendees
August 17, 2015 Commerce City	Present changes to the alternatives, update stakeholders on project progress, and introduce the DBFOM project delivery method	14
August 19, 2015 Aurora		31
August 20, 2015 Denver		95
Total		140

3.2.2 Community leader meetings

These meetings continued to be held through the preparation period of the Final EIS. They were held as needed and were created early in the community outreach process to keep the public informed of the progress of the project and provide data available to share with the public. The meetings were informal in nature, providing the attendees an opportunity to arrive at their convenience to get information or provide feedback on topics that interested them. Ongoing community leader meetings that have been held since the Supplemental Draft EIS was published are summarized below in Table 3.

Table 3. Monthly community leader meetings

Date	Topic	Number of Attendees
August 20, 2014	Discussion of how to provide comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS	24
October 15, 2014	Discussion of how to provide comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS	15
November 19, 2014	Open meeting for attendees to speak with project team members, ask questions, express their concerns, and provide comments.	20
January 21, 2015	Open meeting for attendees to speak with project team members, ask questions, express their concerns, and provide comments.	16
February 18, 2015	Open meeting for attendees to speak with project team members, ask questions, express their concerns, and provide comments.	31
April 15, 2015	Open meeting for attendees to speak with project team members, ask questions, express their concerns, and provide comments.	26
October 21, 2015	Open meeting for attendees to speak with project team members, ask questions, express their concerns, and provide comments. Topics included aesthetics and mitigation.	22

3.2.3 Community planning workshops for the highway cover

CDOT and Denver organized these meetings together to gather ideas and explore possibilities of different outdoor uses for the cover. The proposed cover, part of the Preferred Alternative, will be located over the future highway near Swansea Elementary School. Tools including a presentation and group workshops were used to solicit the best input from the meeting attendees. Table 4 summarizes the cover planning meetings held during the preparation of the Final EIS.

Table 4. Community workshop for the highway cover

Date	Topic	Number of Attendees
April 4, 2015	Cover planning presentation and group workshops. Meeting focused on engaging the public to gather ideas on outdoor uses for the cover.	101
June 9, 2015	Presentation of cover options. Meeting focused on engaging the public to design the cover space.	50

3.2.4 Door-to-door outreach

One of the most effective ways of communicating the latest status of the project, or other updates, is by engaging in person to person conversations with the communities that will be most affected by the project. Door-to-door outreach was used at various times throughout the project to provide an opportunity for community members to put a face to an issue and work

through any reservations or challenges right then and there. A Spanish translator was involved in the outreach to assist members of the Spanish-speaking public.

After publishing the Supplemental Draft EIS, the I-70 East project team conducted door-to-door outreach for the homes between 45th Avenue and 47th Avenue from Brighton Boulevard to Colorado Boulevard to raise awareness of the project and invite the community to the public hearings and provide comment on the project.

In October 2015, prior to the release of the Final EIS, door-to-door outreach was conducted in the same area to provide an update on the mitigation that will be provided with the project and allow the chance to ask questions or voice concerns.

4 COLORADO HIGH PERFORMANCE TRANSPORTATION ENTERPRISE TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

CDOT, together with the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE), completed a process to determine how the I-70 East project will be financed, including the possibility of public-private partnership. The Governor's Executive Order D 2014-010, along with HPTE's own Colorado High Performance Transportation Enterprise Transparency Relating to Public-Private Partnerships, requires an extensive outreach process to engage the public in reviewing and commenting on financing options.

CDOT and HPTE began a series of public meetings in June 2014 on this topic and will continue these meetings and other outreach activities throughout the procurement process. The Transportation Commission finalized a decision that the I-70 East project will be carried out in a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain format, being financed by public-private partnership. Table 5 lists the meetings that have been held. More information can be found at www.coloradohpte.com.

Table 5. HPTE I-70 East events

Date	Meeting
June 25, 2014	I-70 East Telephone Town Hall
July 8, 2014	Town Hall Open House
October 16, 2014	I-70 East Telephone Town Hall
November 5, 2014	I-70 East Town Hall Meeting
February 5, 2015	Special HPTE/Transportation Commission Workshop
March 11-12, 2015	I-70 East Industry Forum
August 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2015	I-70 East Telephone Town Hall and Corridor-Wide Meetings

5 FUTURE PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Agency coordination and community outreach will continue through the remainder of the NEPA process and during construction. After the release of the Final EIS, corridor-wide open houses/public hearings are scheduled to be held during February 2016. The hearings will be held during a 30-day public review period that will allow the public, stakeholders, and agencies an opportunity to provide comments on the Final EIS.

Attachment D – Appendix A.

Map of Comments Received on the Supplemental Draft EIS



